

7/041/009 Georg Pacific  
MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

JUN 19 1991

DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

To: Ralph Bohn

From: Roy Van Os

Date: June 7, 1991

Subject:

Site Visit to Georgia Pacific Gypsum Mine

Sites: Western #17 Claims (T22S, R1W, Section 5)

Crescent Claims (T22s, R1W, Section 12)

On June 7, 1991, Roy Van Os (Bureau of Solid & Hazardous Waste), Mark Novak (Water Pollution Control), Holland Shephard (Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining) and Michael Jackson (Bureau of Land Management) performed a site visit to Georgia-Pacific's Gypsum mining claims near Sigurd, Utah.

The purpose of this site visit was to investigate the condition and impact of two industrial waste (spent gypsum products) landfills at each of the mining claims specified. These landfills (non-permitted) have been used for an estimated five years. The landfill at Western Claims is approximately three acres. The landfill at Crescent Claims extends approximately two acres. These landfills occur adjacent to the gypsum outcroppings where trucks returning from the processing plant dump spent processed waste before loading with gypsum mineral.

The interest of the Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste was to investigate the general condition of the landfill to see what steps are required from Georgia-Pacific to fulfill the permitting requirements. The landfills were in good conditions and did not contain debris from local residents to a great extent. Of the two claims investigated, Western Claims would be much more susceptible to outside dumping from local residents. This did not occur even though "convenience dumpsters" in Sigurd were recently removed. The town landfill was convenient enough for residents to dispose of trash.

Georgia-Pacific is actively pursuing recycling of gypsum as part of their normal operation. Bob Shajary (Plant Manager) indicated that they are using approximately 1% recycled material in their product with the capability of using up to 4%. This recycling program has drastically reduced the amount of trash they haul to their landfills.

In addition, the economics of the gypsum industry has forced Georgia-Pacific to lay off approximately 50% of their work force. Bob Shajary also indicated that it is currently less expensive for them to have someone else mine the gypsum and haul it to Georgia-Pacific than it is for Georgia-Pacific to mine their own claims. They are currently in the process of eliminating their wall board production and concentrating on plaster production and specialty products of gypsum in the powder form. This has changed the type of waste to the landfill from

paper-covered debris to bagged debris.

In summary, Georgia-Pacific will be utilizing their landfills less. The Western Claims is more convenient as this is closer to the production facilities. The material they are dumping appears to solidify when hydrated and is basically no different than the material they are removing from the ground. The waste is brought by dump trucks and dumped in piles near the edge of the top of the hill. When enough piles are accumulated, a dozer pushes the piles off the edge of the hill. It appears that this material slowly decomposes and loses its original shape. No insects or rodents were noticed. No odors were apparent.

As a side note, Michael Jackson (BLM) requested that he receive copies of correspondence and also obtain a Bureau position regarding the disposal of construction waste. I told Michael Jackson that I considered the gypsum the same as construction waste.